

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

Previously pending claims 1-5 were rejected as anticipated by SCHULTZ 6,255,848.

The Official Action offers Figure 2A as disclosing a logic plane 150 being in a first plane and a configuration plane 120 being in a separate, different second plane. See Figure 2 reproduced below:

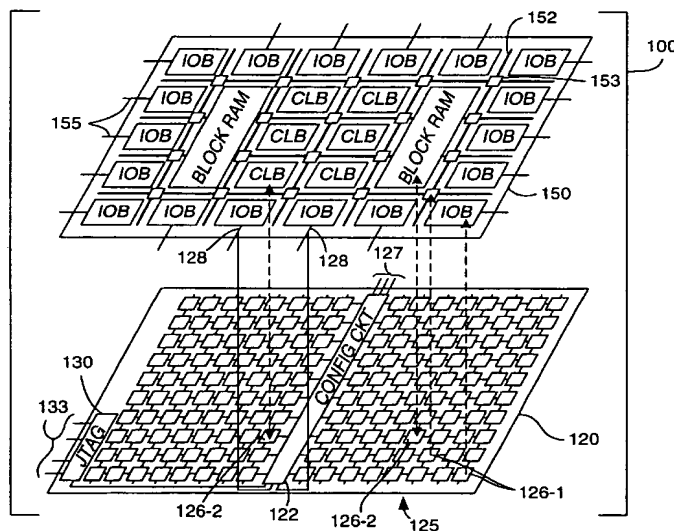


FIG. 2A

It is true that the logic plane 150 is drawn separately from the configuration plane 120. However, this representation is selected only for drafting purposes in order to illustrate that each plane has a different structure. Both planes, however, are part of a common Virtex FPGA (compare column 4, lines 48-49).

That is to say, the two planes lie in the same plane within the FPGA and are not separate planes, as required by amended claim 1.

Compare the SCHULTZ structure with Figure 3 of the present application. Figure 3 shows a PLD 3A and another PLD 3B. See next Figure 4 which shows plane E1 with PLDs 3A-3D and plane E2 with changeover logic block 8. E1 and E2 are non-coplanar planes. As illustrated, the PLDs and the changeover logic block are in two different planes, E1 and E2.

From specification page 6, it is disclosed that:

"Thus, the changeover logic block can be preferably constructed in one plane which differs from a plane with the reconfigurable logic blocks. A different plane of the changeover logic block is understood to be every plane which is not at the same time the plane of the reconfigurable logic blocks, i.e. the plane of the changeover logic block can be located above, next to or below the plane of the reconfigurable logic blocks. At the same time, these planes can be advantageously at least largely of equivalent structure."

SCHULTZ does not teach or suggest this structure.

The new claims are believed patentable for the above reasons and in that the recited combination of features is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

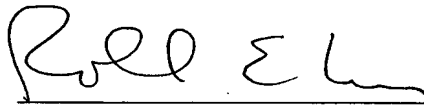
Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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